
REPORT CONCERNING INDIANS IN UTAH.

REPORT OF AGENT FOR UINTA AND OURAY AGENCY.

UINTA AND OURAY AGENCY,
Whiterocks, Utah, August 15, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith my third annual report of the affairs of this agency:

Location.—The Uinta Reservation is in the northeastern part of Utah, and the nearest railroad station is Price, on the Rio Grande Western Railroad, and is 110 miles from the Uinta Agency, over a very bad road. The Ouray subagency is 35 miles from the Uinta Agency, and is in charge of a civil-service clerk. Some one appoints a clerk for me and the law makes me responsible for all his acts, which I think is wrong.

Census.—The census of the Indians was taken June 30, 1901, and shows a population of 811 enrolled at the Uinta Agency, and 837 at the Ouray subagency, divided as follows:

White River Utes:

Males over 18 years of age.....	117
Females over 14 years of age.....	104
Males under 18 years of age.....	70
Females under 14 years of age.....	63

Uinta Utes:		
Males over 18 years of age.....	160	
Females over 14 years of age.....	145	
Males under 18 year of age.....	90	
Females under 14 years of age.....	62	
		457
Uncompahgre Utes:		
Males over 18 years of age.....	295	
Females over 14 years of age.....	304	
Males under 18 years of age.....	119	
Females under 14 years of age.....	102	
		820
White River Utes. (Ouray subagency):		
Males over 18 years of age.....	7	
Females over 14 years of age.....	5	
Males under 18 years of age.....	2	
Females under 14 years of age.....	3	
		17
Total Indians under charge of this agency.....		1,648
Number of children between the ages 6 and 16—attending school or not:		
White River Utes at Uinta Agency.....	98	
Uinta Utes at Uinta Agency.....	92	
Uncompahgre Utes at Ouray subagency.....	146	
White River Utes at Ouray subagency.....	4	
		340

I am quite certain that the census of the Uinta and White River Utes are correct, but it is very difficult to get a correct census from the Uncompahgre Utes. I told the clerk in charge to be very careful, and I think he has done about as well as he could under the circumstances.

Farming.—The Indians are doing better on their farms every year, and are taking more interest in farming since I have refused to permit them to rent to white men for a share of the crop. There are a number of young Indians here who want me to assign them farms so that they can have farms of their own, but I can not do it because I do not have enough fence wire to fence it for them. I will write you a separate letter on this subject, and ask you to send me more wire.

Liquor traffic.—There has been very little drunkenness among the Indians in the last year, but it increased from the year before. I think that the fact that the War Department has abolished the canteen at Fort Duchesne is the cause of the increase. One man has been indicted by the United States grand jury for selling whisky to Indians, and another man has a trial before a United States commissioner to-day for the same offense.

Schools.—The Uinta and Ouray schools are on this reservation, and are 20 miles apart. My opinion is that nothing short of force will ever fill these schools. The parents are very prejudiced against the schools, and I think there should be force used to compel children to go to nonreservation schools, without the consent of the parents. I herewith inclose a report from each of the superintendents.

Buildings.—The buildings at the Uinta Agency are in good condition and repair, but we need more dwellings for employees. The buildings at the Ouray subagency can be classed as worthless, with three exceptions, and there is very little value to them. The school buildings are in fairly good condition.

Irrigation.—We have a splendid system of irrigation on the reservation, and plenty of water.

Health of Indians.—The health of the Indians has been very good the past year, except that there was considerable measles and chicken pox among the children, and some deaths occurred because the Indian medicine men did not give them proper treatment. By the way, the medicine men are a great nuisance and hindrance to the Ute Indians.

Progress.—I think the Indians have made great progress in the last few years toward being self-supporting. The greatest improvement in this respect, however, has been among the younger Indians. A great many of the old Indians still try to live on their rations and the annuity money. If there were some way to separate the old Indians from the young ones their improvement would be much more rapid.

Recommendations.—The Uinta and White River Indians should be paid for the land they sold to the Uncompahgres in 1897 and 1898.

The Ouray school should be abandoned and consolidated with the Uinta school, and the Ouray subagency be moved to the present site of the Ouray school.

I desire to acknowledge my appreciation of the courtesies extended to me during the time I have been agent by the Department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. P. MYTON,
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF UINTA SCHOOL.

UINTA BOARDING SCHOOL,
Whiterocks, Utah, July 1, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to submit this my first annual report of Uinta Boarding School. I assumed charge of this school on the 15th day of June, 1900. At that time Special Agent E. B. Reynolds was at this agency.

He mentioned to me the fact that this school was in need of good, strong systematic discipline both among pupils and employees. I not only found this to be true, but that it was a very difficult problem to solve for various reasons. By the resignation of the seamstress and the laundress, in August, and the subsequent appointment of probationers to those positions, our employee force of 9 consisted of 3 who had been in the Indian school service for less than one year, 5 probationers, to which class was soon added another by the resignation of a teacher, and 1, the superintendent, who had had several years' experience in that work.

I found that the boys were quartered in the building containing the kitchens and dining room and the sewing room, while the girls were located in the same building with the class rooms. This order was immediately reversed. Old and filthy outhouses were purified by fire, and new ones built over a new sewer ditch constructed for that purpose, through which passes a constant stream of fresh water.

Dormitories and schoolrooms being without means of ventilation other than windows and doors, ventilating shafts were put in, and failing so far to secure the necessary motor fans for securing a free passage of air through these shafts, we place burning kerosene lamps in the lower openings of these shafts and thus secure a moderate circulation at the cost of safety.

The great difficulty with this school is in securing a proper attendance of pupils. The remarks on the Sauk and Fox of Iowa, in the report of Estelle Reel, superintendent of Indian schools, for the year 1900, where this statement is made, "I am convinced that force is the only method to be pursued in order to uplift these people," have been repeatedly made with reference to the Uinta and White River Utes by superintendents, agents, supervisors, inspectors, and special agents, and for the sake of these savages it is to be hoped that those higher in authority will soon realize this fact and act accordingly.

In gathering children at the opening of the school year, nearly all school employees made at least one trip into the upper Duchesne country, where our best material is found. Four days of constant driving are required on this trip, over rocks and desert, through sand and dust. Four of these trips were made, myself going for the third time. I have squatted in their filthy wickiups and counseled with the stubborn savages, only to be told that they had no children, or that their children always died when they went to school, or that they would not let them go. The net result of all our work there was 13. By constant effort, during the month of November we enrolled 68 and held an average attendance of 65, the capacity of our plant being 85.

Then in December came the catastrophe. More than half of the school came down with measles. One patient, suffering also with tonsillitis, died. Doubtless this deplorable accident would have been avoided had the employee in charge of this patient exercised ordinary good judgment and obeyed orders. However, the following morning nearly all the patients were taken from their beds and carried away by their parents, and placed in the hands of the Indian medicine men, and it was found necessary to call for a troop of cavalry to protect the buildings from being burned, as that determination had been reported to the agent by one loyal Indian policeman.

From exposure and Indian treatment, four of our pupils died in camp, while several were unnecessarily seriously ill, and one has a well-developed case of tuberculosis. Doubtless this could all have been avoided had they remained at the school. Their medicine men were to be found everywhere practicing their fiendish arts. It was a very common thing to hear the tom-tom and the barbarous howl of the medicine man at night, and the death wail from the same wickiup in the morning. One Indian informed me that 17 children in this vicinity died of measles last winter. We have an excellent physician here, one who understands his business, and is always ready to do his duty, but one medicine man can undo more than two good physicians can do.

It was hard and unsatisfactory work getting our pupils in again, and at no time since the measles epidemic has the attendance been what it was before. Then came the order for vaccination, and as a result several pupils left and some never returned. At this crisis in affairs Inspector James McLaughlin was sent to us. By repeated and lengthy councils, certain ones promised to bring children to school, while others said, "We don't have to till we get ready." The net results of his labors were 12 new pupils, and the attendance was regular from this time out—54, 55, and 56; only about two-thirds of what it should be. What are the conclusions? If a child refuses to take the medicine for his own good, take him by the nose, shut off his wind, and compel him to swallow it.

In spite of these discouragements fair progress has been made in schoolroom work. It has been somewhat difficult for the primary teacher, on account of new pupils coming in at different times, and always beginners, with little or no knowledge of the English language. Kindergarten methods have been employed wherever possible, and with good results. A good beginning for next year's work has been made in geography and history in the more advanced grades, should any of the advanced grade return another year, which is doubtful, as some of them are already married, and probably others will be, according to the custom of early marriages in vogue among these Indians.

I quote the following from a report of J. W. Reynolds, principal teacher: "The greatest detriment to schoolroom work herelies in the fact of irregular attendance, and also to the fact that the children drop out of school at the time when they are just beginning to make real progress. However, these factors are beginning to make less trouble, as evidenced by the showing for the quarter ended

June 30, 1901. This was the best of the year in regularity of attendance and in the character and amount of work done."

Toward the close of the year, at the suggestion of Supervisor A. O. Wright, the system of industrial training for girls was revised. Each large girl was given a family of three, besides herself, which family she must take care of in the matter of washing and sewing; and a cooking class separate from the general work of the school was also organized. The results were decidedly satisfactory, and a great improvement over a system of general work all through. Some of our large girls have learned to cook reasonably well, and must be complimented on their economy in this work. The large girls have also learned to cut and make their clothing, as well as run the sewing machines, and it is no uncommon sight to see two or three large girls in the sewing room during play time, busily engaged in making dresses or other garments from goods purchased by themselves for mother or little sister at home, cutting and sewing all being done by themselves. The girls have also made good progress in laundry and house work, though not as marked as in cooking and sewing.

Opportunities for industrial training for boys are limited. A very good cut of alfalfa is now being taken from the farm, and there is every indication of a good crop of oats; but the garden promises almost an entire failure, the only thing having an appearance of success there being the potatoes. Class work in the shop is out of the question with the present number of employees to look after the boys' work, there being but one, and no prospect of more until the attendance of pupils is increased very materially.

The first and greatest need of this school is the authority and power to fill it with pupils, and then other things will be easy.

The buildings are sadly in need of repairs, and have been so for some time. I am unable to say for how many years the brick building has needed two corners renewed, the soft brick of which they were constructed having melted away, leaving the house not only unsightly in appearance, but not entirely safe. All the buildings need more or less new plastering, the boys' and girls' quarters needing it throughout. We were obliged to abandon one dormitory room in the boys' building on account of falling plaster.

There is an abundance of the purest of mountain water to be had if we go to the ditch and dip it up. A surface reservoir might be put in a half mile above the school, from which water could be piped all over the buildings, and the pressure would be amply sufficient for the best of fire protection. As it is now, our fire protection consists of the fire pail.

In conclusion, I wish to say that the prospect for successful and satisfactory work for the coming year is not favorable. The problem of filling the school has been discussed. According to recent information from the Indian Office, the per capita cost for employees for 1902 has been reduced from \$96 to \$80, and the positions of assistant matron and laundress and that of one teacher have been abolished, while the remaining teacher has been reduced in salary; and we are wondering how we are ever to do it.

I take pleasure in noting the visits of Special Agent E. B. Reynolds, Supervisor A. O. Wright, and Inspector James McLaughlin, and of the good advice and assistance received from these gentlemen.

Very respectfully,

E. O. HUGHES, *Superintendent*.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.
(Through H. P. Myton, United States Indian agent.)

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF OURAY SCHOOL.

LELAND, UTAH, July 26, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to submit my third annual report of the Ouray boarding school.

The attendance the past year has been 32, while during the previous year it was 44. This loss is due partly to transfers, marriages, and poor health, but mostly to the Indians' determined opposition to civilization. I do not believe the agent, by the exercise of all the power vested in him by the rules of the Indian Department, can fill this school. Kindness and persuasion have been tried long enough. The Indians mistake kindness for cowardice, and it is a waste of time to try to reason with them. Many of these children will never attend school until they are taken by force. It is useless to appeal to the police, for they are dominated by the unfriendly element in the tribe and are afraid to do their duty. It will be necessary to adopt some more effective means of dealing with these Indians before the school will be a success.

During October and November we had an epidemic of measles among the pupils, which seriously interfered with the work in all departments. At one time all the girls and most of the boys were sick and it was necessary to omit schoolroom work for three weeks. One pupil died at the school with tuberculosis, while four others, who were discharged, subsequently died with the same disease.

On account of sickness and changes in teachers, the schoolroom work has not been so satisfactory as it was during the previous year.

Our supply of water is still hauled from the river in barrels or carried from an irrigating ditch. Neither method is satisfactory.

Our farming operations have not been very successful. Each year I have a new industrial teacher who knows nothing about irrigating. The first cutting of alfalfa made a fair yield, but the second cutting will be very light on account of a lack of water. The alkali has almost destroyed our garden, so we will raise but few vegetables.

The buildings need some repairs, but most of the work can be done by the regular employees.

Although the outlook is not encouraging, I still hope that some means of filling the school may be discovered, and that at some future time I may be able to make a more favorable report.

Very respectfully,

JNO. M. COMMONS, *Superintendent*.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.